

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1309, because I continue to be supportive of efforts to expand and strengthen nursing programs to address critical shortages in this occupational area.

However, I want to work with the author of this measure on clean-up legislation in the next session to resolve certain drafting errors contained in the bill regarding the loan assumption program for recruitment of state nurses and to make the number of new awards provided under this program subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

Additionally, it is my understanding that the author submitted a letter to the journal that attempted to reflect agreements with my Administration on the intent language specified in sections 22 and 23 of this bill. Section 22 relates to the funding of baccalaureate students at CSU. It is my intent that these students be funded in the 2007-08 fiscal year from within the funding provided for 2.5 percent enrollment growth. Section 23 relates to the funding of baccalaureate and master's degree nursing students at UC. It is my intent that the specified baccalaureate students be funded in the 2007-08 fiscal year from within the funding provided for 2.5 percent enrollment growth, consistent with CSU. Further, of the number of specified master's degree nursing students, additional funding is not needed in the 2007-08 fiscal year for the 65 entry-level master's degree students and the 20 traditional master's degree students that were funded in the 2006 Budget Act and that funding for the remainder of the specified master's degree students be considered as part of the annual budget process.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger